

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant comprising a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes ~~or is complementary to a sequence that encodes~~ a DRO2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~and including a Dof-type zinc finger domain~~, wherein said transgenic plant has increased drought tolerance to control plants.

2. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the DRO2 polypeptide.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing increased drought tolerance in a plant, said method comprising:

a) introducing into plant cells a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes ~~or is complementary to a sequence that encodes~~ a DRO2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 to produce transformed cells, and

b) growing the transformed cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said nucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased drought tolerance as compared to a ~~non-modified~~ non-transgenic control plant.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein a DRO2 polypeptide is over-expressed in the transgenic plant as compared to a ~~non-modified~~ non-transgenic control plant.

5. (Original) A plant obtained by a method of Claim 3.

6. (Previously Presented) A recombinant plant part obtained from a plant according to Claim 5.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing increased drought tolerance in a plant, said method comprising:

a) introducing into plant cells a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes ~~or is complementary to a sequence that encodes~~ a DRO2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 to produce transformed cells, and

b) growing the transformed cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said nucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased drought tolerance as compared to a ~~non-modified~~ non-transgenic control plant.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7 wherein a DRO2 polypeptide is over-expressed in the transgenic plant as compared to a ~~non-modified~~ non-transgenic control plant.

9. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant produced by the method of Claim 7.

10. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant of Claim 9 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the DRO2 polypeptide.

11. (Previously Presented) A recombinant plant part obtained from a plant according to Claim 9.